

Attorney Docket No. 06620-026001
Application No. 09/771,146
Amendment dated May 7, 2004
Reply to Office Action dated December 10, 2003

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the above-referenced application are respectfully requested.

Numerous claims stand rejected over Sauer in view of Eino. This contention is respectfully traversed for claims 9 and 10. Claim 1 has been amended to include the limitations of claims 9 and 10 therein. The other independent claims 55 and 72 have been analogously amended. Each of these claims are completely allowable over the cited prior art for reasons set forth herein.

The Examiner's points about column 11, lines 38-60 of Sauer is well-taken. Accordingly, this claim has been narrowed to include the limitations of claims 9 and 10, and specifically to specify that there is a rotatable connection so that the sleeve can be rotated; and that there is an orientation part viewable from an outside of the sleeve assembly that indicates an orientation of rotation of the sleeve assembly. These latter two limitations are in no way taught or suggested by Sauer in view of Eino.

Eino describes a mark generating circuit in column 9, for example, beginning at 34. This mark is overlapped on the endoscope image display (see, for example, column 9, lines 65-

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68). This is not, however, an orientation part that is viewable from an outside and indicates an orientation of rotation. The remaining portions of this have also been reviewed, but none of them teach or suggest the advantageous features noted above.

It is believed that all of the pending claims have been addressed in this paper. However, failure to address a specific rejection, issue or comment, does not signify agreement with or concession of that rejection, issue or comment. In addition, because the arguments made above are not intended to be exhaustive, there may be reasons for patentability of any or all pending claims (or other claims) that have not been expressed. Finally, nothing in this paper should be construed as an intent to concede any issue with regard to any claim, except as specifically stated in this paper, and the amendment of any claim does not necessarily signify concession of unpatentability of the claim prior to its amendment.

This should obviate all remaining rejections in the case, and a notice of allowance is respectfully solicited.

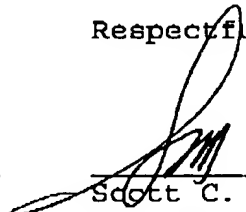
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No. 06-1050.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: 05/10/2004



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